

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 199832

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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, RH, MZ

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE -- NEWS ARTICLE
AND PRESS GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REUTERS NEWS ITEM IN NEW YORK TIMES,
AUGUST 11, ENTITLED "RHODESIA SAYS IT ATTACKED REBEL SITE
IN MOZAMBIQUE -- 300 GUERRILLAS REPORTED SLAIN IN A RAID
ACROSS BORDER ON SUNDAY." BEGIN TEXT:

1. SALISBURY, RHODESIA, AUG. 10 -- RHODESIAN FORCES HAVE
CROSSED INTO MOZAMBIQUE AND KILLED MORE THAN 300 BLACK
NATIONALIST GUERRILLAS AT A BASE CAMP USED FOR LAUNCHING
ATTACKS ON RHODESIA, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

2. THE STATEMENT SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE GUERRILLAS;
30 MOZAMBICAN SOLDIERS AND 10 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN
SUNDAY'S RAID; STAGED ABOUT 20 MILES SOUTH OF THE BORDER
TOWN OF UMTALI, IN RETALIATION FOR "UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION"
BY MOZAMBIQUE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 199832

3. IT WAS THE FIRST CONFIRMED INCURSION INTO MOZAMBIQUE SINCE PRIME MINISTER IAN D. SMITH RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT

HE HAD AUTHORIZED TROOPS TO MOVE OVER THE FRONTIER IN HOT PURSUIT IF NECESSARY.

4. RHODESIAN TROOPS SUFFERED ONLY SLIGHT WOUNDS, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT.

5. INFORMED SOURCES SAID THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WAS A TACIT ADMISSION THAT THE RAID WAS IN RETALIATION FOR A MORTAR BOMB ATTACK SUNDAY ON A RHODESIAN ARMY BASE IN WHICH FOUR SOLDIERS WERE KILLED.

6. CHAMPAGNE CORKS POPPED IN SALISBURY BARS TONIGHT AS WHITE RHODESIANS CELEBRATED THE RAID. SOME REVELLERS WERE CALLING IT "RHODESIA'S ENTEBBE," AN ALLUSION TO THE ISRAEL RESCUE OF HIJACKED HOSTAGES AT UGANDA'S MAIN AIRPORT LAST MONTH.

7. RHODESIANS IN FARMING AREAS ALONG THE MOZAMBIQUE BORDER HAVE LONG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO STRIKE BACK AT GUERRILLA BASES IN MOZAMBIQUE.

8. BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS INSISTED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY AFTER THE MOST EXTREME PROVOCATION, WARNING THAT VIOLENT INTERNATIONAL REACTION WOULD RESULT.

9. THE DEATH TOLL IN THE MOZAMBIQUE OPERATION APPEARED TO BE THE HEAVIEST IN ANY SINGLE INCIDENT SINCE GUERRILLAS LAUNCHED THEIR WAR IN DECEMBER 1972 TO OVERTHROW THE WHITE REGIME.

10. RHODESIAN COMMUNIQUES UP TO YESTERDAY HAD LISTED 542 GUERRILLAS KILLED THIS YEAR AND A TOTAL OF 1,155 SINCE THE WAR BEGAN. RHODESIA'S LOSSES SINCE THEN HAVE BEEN GIVEN AS 61.

11. BEFORE TODAY'S DETAILED ANNOUNCEMENT, A RHODESIAN STATEMENT SAID THAT SECURITY FORCES HAD ATTACKED A UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 199832

"TERRORIST COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND BASE CAMP IN MOZAMBIQUE."

12. THE STATEMENT DID NOT SAY WHETHER THE RHODESIAN AIR FORCE HAD BEEN USED. IT REPORTED THAT THE RHODESIAN RAIDERS SUFFERED NO LOSSES, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE "A FEW MINOR INJURIES."

13. DURING THE OPERATION THE RHODESIANS DESTROYED A "ROAD BLOCK" PRESUMABLY A BORDER POST, AND A BRIDGE, THE STATEMENT SAID.

14. IT SAID THE BASE CAMP HAD BEEN ATTACKED ON IRREPUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT GUERRILLAS IN IT WERE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF OPERATIONS AGAINST RHODESIA.

15. "IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY RESTRAINING INFLUENCE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD, RHODESIA HAS HAD NO OPTION BUT TO STRIKE AT CENTERS OF ORGANIZED TERRORISM ON HER BORDERS IN THE INTERESTS OF HER OWN SELF-PRESERVATION," THE STATEMENT SAID. END TEXT.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE FOR SPOKESMEN TO USE IF QUERIED BY PRESS ON THIS ARTICLE: BEGIN TEXT.

1. QUESTION: THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY MILITARY RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE RESULTING IN EXTENSIVE DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES AMONG RHODESIAN GUERRILLAS, MOZAMBICAN FORCES AND CIVILIANS. WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ON THESE RAIDS?

2. ANSWER: WE HAVE SEEN THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT RELEASES ON THE FACTS OF THE RAID AS PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS. WE DEPLORE THE ATTACK AND DEEPLY REGRET THE RESULTANT LOSS OF LIFE. THE RESULTS OF THIS ACT BY RHODESIAN FORCES ONCE AGAIN UNDERLINE OUR BELIEF THAT A RAPID, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO THE RHODESIAN SITUATION MUST BE EFFECTED. A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WHICH BRINGS MAJORITY RULE AND AT THE SAME TIME PROTECTS THE RIGHTS OF THE MINORITY IN RHODESIA IS THE BEST WAY TO REMOVE THE CAUSES OF VIOLENCE.

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PAGE 04 STATE 199832

3. TOWARD THAT END THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTING ITS BEST EFFORTS. END TEXT.

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